

but stands trial for manslaughter. She is convicted but her pastor, also a defendant, is found not guilty because he has no legal obligation to provide medical care for the girl. The mother is then granted probation and thus goes on her own way with her teenage son.

The author strives to make out a case against the church pastor as an accessory before the fact and, therefore, equally guilty in the girl's death. Morally, his case might stand; legally, it falls short. This book may be used as an "Uncle Tom's Cabin" for those who would find church leaders equally guilty with parents where the lives of minor children are in jeopardy. However, with our constitutional guarantee of freedom of religion, it is doubtful that the moral the author presses will find public, or least, court acceptance.

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**THE LOW SODIUM COOK BOOK.** Alma Smith Payne, M.A., and Dorothy Callahan, B.S., Research Dietitian, Massachusetts General Hospital. Little, Brown and Company, Boston, 1953. 477 pages, \$4.00.

This is an excellent cook book, which also may serve as a textbook, for the patient on a low-sodium diet. The authors have thoroughly informed themselves on their subject, and they tackle the problem of the low-sodium dieter with expertness, good sense and humor.

They have developed many appetizing and interesting recipes and menus—leaning on herbs and wines for seasoning—and they present these with calculation of the sodium, fat and calorie values. There are also appendices which include tables of the sodium, cholesterol and fat content of common foods, sources of commercial low sodium products and the sodium content of public water supplies.

The book is written in a readable, lively style, and should prove especially encouraging to the patient or the family first confronted with the rigors of low-sodium dieting. It sets a standard which should be emulated in other fields of special diets.

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**HYPERSPLENISM AND SURGERY OF THE SPLEEN.** William Dameshek, M.D., and C. Stuart Welch, M.D., Pratt Diagnostic Hospital, New England Center Hospital and Tufts Medical College Medical School, Boston. Grune and Stratton, Inc., New York, 1953. 84 pages, \$10.00.

This book is an extension of Dameshek and Estren's *Spleen and Hypersplenism*, published in 1948, to which has been added a section of surgery of the spleen by C. Stuart Welch, M.D. The material is presented chiefly in graphic form, being adapted from a prize-winning A.M.A. exhibit in 1950. It is hand lettered, printed on heavy paper and bound by a plastic ring. There are numerous illustrations, many in color, which probably account in part for the unusual cost for a volume of so few pages. Three-fourths of the book is devoted to the spleen and its diseases, with consideration of its anatomy and physiology. The different disease states are discussed and illustrative cases are presented. Emphasis is placed on Dameshek's concept of hypersplenism as a disorder resulting from marrow inhibition by humoral regulation. Treatment is discussed, and their reported results with ACTH and cortisone therapy in immunogenic hemolytic anemia are much better than those generally obtained elsewhere. One-fourth of the book is devoted to surgery of the spleen, the indications and technique, with consideration even of portacaval shunt. There is much repetition and oversimplification of the material throughout the book, which would be of most value to medical students, general practitioners and beginners in the field of hematology.

**SPLEEN PUNCTURE.** Sven Moeschlin, Privatdozent, University Medical Clinic, Zurich. Translated by A. Piney, M.D., Grune and Stratton, New York, 1951. 229 pages, \$5.50.

This small volume is the outstanding work on spleen puncture. As in other fields of endeavor, when an individual devotes himself to a particular problem, in Moeschlin's hands, spleen puncture is a simple and valuable procedure. Moeschlin has had no mortality and little morbidity in hundreds of cases, in contrast to the results in the few small series reported from this country. In his book, he gives careful instructions as to the technique of spleen puncture, and the reviewer, having seen the author in action, can confirm its simplicity. The normal and abnormal cell pictures of the spleen are discussed, and there are many fine illustrations, both black-and-white and color. The last three-quarters of the book are devoted to detailed descriptions of the "spleno-gram" in a great variety of disorders involving the spleen. While splenic puncture can be dangerous and of no value to the uninitiated, this book should be available for reference to all hematologists and pathologists.

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**OPHTHALMIC SURGERY—6th Revised Edition—A Handbook of Surgical Operations on the Eyeball and Its Appendages.** J. Meller. Revised by Professor J. Böck; translated and edited by Ray K. Daily, M.D., F.A.C.S., and Louis Daily, Jr., B.S., M.D., Ph.D. (Ophth.), F.A.C.S. The Blakiston Company, New York, 1953. 529 pages, \$12.00.

Meller's Ophthalmic Surgery has long been a classic and it has been many years since the English edition has been available to Americans. The sixth edition of the original in German was revised and enlarged by Professor J. Böck, a former student of Meller's. In revising it he has kept the original material of Meller which is applicable to modern surgery and brought the book up to date without destroying its character. The illustrations are clear cut and easily understood. In looking at them, however, it must be remembered that they are drawn from the viewpoint of the Viennese operator who always sits to the patient's right side.

The English translation by the Dailys (mother and son) has been very well done. There is some doubt whether the appendix by the translators adds sufficient to warrant its inclusion in the book. The book contains an excellent index

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**SYMPTOMS AND SIGNS IN CLINICAL MEDICINE—An Introduction to Medical Diagnosis—Fifth Edition.** E. Noble Chamberlain, M.D., M.Sc., F.R.C.P., Senior Lecturer in Medicine, University of Liverpool. The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1952. 479 pages, 354 illustrations, 19 in color, \$8.00.

This is an English attempt to compress the whole of physical diagnosis into one compact volume for the benefit of medical students taking the first course in clinical medicine.

The book is well printed on good grade glossy paper and is well supplied with adequate illustrations (354 illustrations in 451 pages). Other features include a table of symptoms with suggestions for leading questions and area of examination and a glossary of medical terms with their etymology.

Although the try is a worthy one, the reviewer feels that the book cannot be recommended to replace existing American texts on physical diagnosis. The material is stretched too thin and the resultant lack of completeness and detail serves to emphasize the regional differences in teaching.